



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

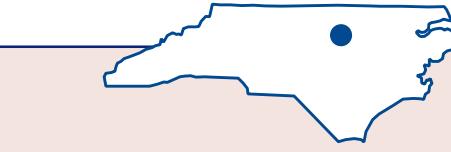
## *Rocky Mount, NC*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Rocky Mount was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant and a cleanup grant. Rocky Mount, with a population of 59,893, is a federally designated Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community within two counties in northeastern North Carolina. Like many downtown areas, the central business district of Rocky Mount has lost its vitality to economic growth in the outlying areas of city. It is struggling to redefine itself following the flood of the century, and the decline of the tobacco and textile industries. It is also a city divided, with a county line defined by railroad tracks that help promote racial division. Revitalization efforts have targeted the Douglas Block area, which at one time was the cultural



### Assessment Grant

New 2005

**\$182,750 for hazardous substances**

EPA has selected the City of Rocky Mount for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct lead, asbestos, and other contaminant assessments in buildings in the Douglas Block project area. Funds also will be used to prepare remedial plans.

### Cleanup Grant

New 2005

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**

EPA has selected the City of Rocky Mount for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to clean up the three-acre property in the Douglas Block area where the Old Fenner and Cobb Carlton tobacco warehouses used to stand. The land has been found to be contaminated with heavy metals, particularly arsenic.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team

404-562-8684

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Rocky Mount, NC  
252-972-1101

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

and economic hub for the African-American community in Rocky Mount. The area has an unemployment rate of 17 percent, and 52 percent of its residents live in poverty. Assessment and cleanup of the brownfields will help the city prepare the area for redevelopment.

Redevelopment is expected to encourage investments that will bring new commercial, cultural, and housing facilities, and increase employment and tax revenues.